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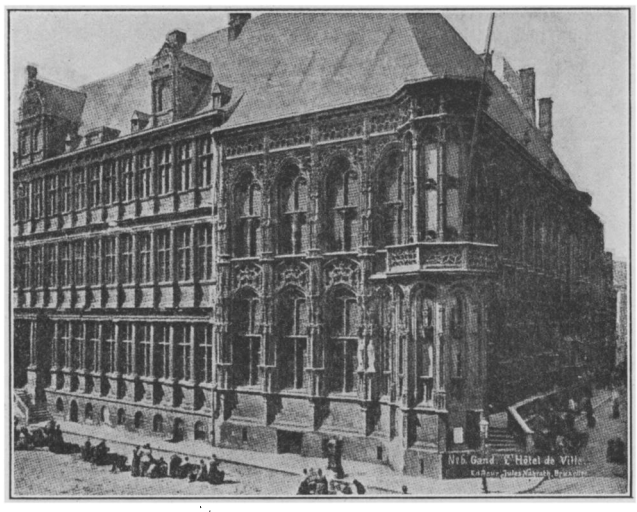
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Courtesy of The Congregationalist.

CITY HALL IN GHENT, WHERE BRITISH AND AMERICAN PEACE ENVOYS WERE GIVEN A BANQUET BY CITY, JANUARY 8, 1815, AFTER PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED.

heroism may be made to count—no way in which such awful sacrifices may be utilized to promote civilization, instead of hindering it and destroying it? Is there no outlet for self-sacrificing heroism but the trade of the man-killer? Is there no "moral equivalent of war," for which William James used to plead so earnestly? Many ways of laying down one's life for a really worthy cause will readily suggest themselves to earnest thinkers. The present article will name but a single one.

Millions of men are now in the ranks of the opposing armies. Many other millions will be summoned to the colors before the war ends. In all this the people have no voice whatsoever, for, when war once is on, popular government is abrogated, just as the judicial process of the civil courts must give place to martial law with its "blind spasms of wild justice." The "powers that be" say to the citizen, "Come," and he cometh—to the recruiting camp; they say, "Go," and he goeth—to the trench and his shallow grave.

Now let us suppose that out of these millions thus ruthlessly doomed to die there were, say, one hundred thousand men who would stand up and refuse, for conscience's sake, to become killers of their fellow-men. Of course, the sequel to such refusal would be a court-martial and a firing-squad. But by the time one hundred thousand choice-souled men had been placed in front of a stone wall and shot such a sentiment would have been generated as to end war forever. Not only would the non-belligerent powers pour in their united and ominous protests, but within the warring nations themselves popular movements would break out too widespread to be ignored, too powerful to brook resistance. After such an expression of public feeling no ruler or government ever again could dream of plunging a people into war. With this abolition of the war curse democracy would come to its own, civilization would commence, and its permanence be assured.

Does such a dream of conserving the heroism now being misdirected and wasted on the European battlefields move practical men to laughter? At least it is no more ludicrous than the "peace-by-bludgeon" doctrine which has so completely broken down. And certainly sacrifice for so noble an end would be something truly worth while, something high and altogether praiseworthy; something vastly superior to the unthinking, undiscerning, misdirected, wasted heroism which, by its blind sacrifice of itself, naively confesses its stupidity.

What a comparatively small price to pay for so inestimable a blessing to our war-weary race—one hundred thousand men—only a tiny fraction of the number of lives already sacrificed by a single nation in the welter now on—a mere bagatelle as compared with those who must yet be butchered for militarism's holiday! We ask in all seriousness, Is not the experiment worth trying? B.

More and More Money for War.

The army appropriation bill passed the Senate on February 23, carrying about $103,000,000, having been amended in the Senate committee and increased by nearly $2,000,000 over the form in which it passed the House.

The naval appropriation bill passed the House of Representatives on February 5 with a considerable reduction in its provisions. It was reported to the Senate on February 25 from the Naval Affairs Committee, and on February 26 was passed, carrying appropriations for about $152,000,000. The increased appropriations are largely for added submarines, the committee amendments having been adopted providing for 5 submarines of sea-going type instead of 1 and for 16 submarines for coast defense intead of 11. The bill was then sent to conference, where a compromise was agreed on, the conferees accepting the 16 coast defense submarines, but reducing the provision for sea-going submarines to 2.

The discussion of the naval bill in the House was unusually encouraging, because of the high stand taken by many of the members. Representative Underwood, floor leader on the Democratic side, made a strong plea for reduction to one battleship on economic grounds especially. After the motion by Mr. Hobson that four battleships be authorized, Mr. Underwood offered an amendment to strike out the four and insert one. Mr. Witherspoon also offered a substitute amendment to strike out the battleship paragraph altogether. After a few hours of discussion, the motion of Mr. Underwood was voted on, and the count stood 142 to 129. Thus at one time the House actually voted for one battleship.

The Witherspoon amendment to strike out the battleship provision altogether failed to pass. Mr. Hobson's motion for four ships was lost by a vote of 54 yeas, 121

nays. Mr. Witherspoon made a last effort to secure only one ship by a motion to recommit the bill to the committee, with instructions to report it back with provision for but one ship. This was lost, 149 to 165.

So the conflict goes on; but it is at least encouraging that the ultra-militarists have been this time thoroughly defeated in their effort to foist upon the people largely increased armaments and expenses.

Extraordinary Session of the Berne Bureau.

An extraordinary session of the Council of the International Peace Bureau was held on January 6 and 7, at Berne, Switzerland. There were sixteen present besides the secretary, Mr. Golay. The countries represented were: Austria, 1; Belgium, 2; Germany, 3; Great Britain, 1; Holland, 3; Hungary, 2; Italy, 1; Switzerland, 3. None of the American members were able to make the journey.

The proposal to make an attempt to hold a meeting originated with Dr. Fried and Professor Quidde, who urged that the session be convened in Holland if it was not found possible to get to Berne. Mr. La Fontaine, the president, did not at first approve the idea, but later came to feel that it was very desirable to attempt to get the council together.

One of the matters discussed, aside from the all-important question of the conditions of a stable peace to be established after the terrible conflict is ended, was the financial position in which the bureau finds itself as a result of the decision of the trustees of the Carnegie Endowment not to make any grants for peace work in Europe while the war continues. Ways and means were carefully canvassed for securing the needful resources to enable the bureau to continue its work during the war, and to prepare for its enlarged activities when the conflict is over.

The three appeals which it was decided to issue are referred to in the letter quoted further on. The document sent out by Mr. La Fontaine a few months ago was taken as the basis for discussion, and eight main points were agreed on as essential to the final settlement.

In a recent letter, Mr. Joseph G. Alexander, the only member of the council from England who was able to attend, makes this summary of what was accomplished:

"The direct outcome of our meeting was not great. It was agreed to issue appeals to peace societies throughout the world and to international organizations of all kinds, exhorting them not to disband their forces; also to 'intellectuals,' begging them to use their influence to allay bitterness and prepare for renewed friendly collaboration when war is over. The council further drew up a program of the main points which will need to be embodied in a just and durable peace, and which pacifists should be carefully studying beforehand with a view to preparing an enlightened public opinion.

"But to my mind the chief value of the gathering, which rendered it well worth while to make a somewhat arduous journey, was the friendly intercourse between pacifists of belligerent and neutral states, who, notwithstanding their different national standpoints, are agreed in protesting against the barbarity and stupidity of war, and have not lost their faith in the ideals of peace. We are assured that the object-lesson of the awful conflict now raging will not be lost. As a Swiss pastor told his congregation a Sunday or two ago, 'We were a few thousand pacifists before the war; after it we shall be millions.'"

Mr. Alexander, in a later communication, makes these observations:

"Our chairman, a member of the Senate of poor, martyred Belgium, set a noble example by his attitude toward the delegates of the peace societies of the state whose armies have devastated her towns and villages. I could not but feel deep sympathy with those who, though they dare not exercise the liberty of criticism which is still permitted to us in England, remain as much attached as ever to the principles of peace for which we have all long contended. It was a privilege to be permitted, on behalf of British pacifists, to show them that, however much we may disapprove the actions of their governments, we still recognize in them brothers in arms in the war against war."

The following is the text of the general appeal which the council voted to send out:

To Intellectual Leaders in All Nations:

Half a year of war has now passed over Europe, and the bodies of the slain youth of all peoples still rise pile upon pile, while centers of industry and civilization are still being converted into heaps of ruin and desolation. Millions who but a few months ago were in health, industriously carrying on their peaceful pursuits, happily and contentedly laboring, have been torn from the ranks of the living, or are wasting away with disease, or crippled, or pining in misery and despair. The hopes which filled humanity a few years since, when the threshold of the twentieth century was crossed, seem to have been forgotten. Men's thoughts, filled with hatred and bitterness, are bent on destruction and the ruthless annihilation of everything which but yesterday they considered as the sacred attributes of an advanced epoch.

Nevertheless, in the midst of this sanguinary and dark hour a faint ray of hope is appearing—the still hazy conception that a day will dawn when all this wretchedness will be ended and reason shall once more come into her own and control men's thoughts and feelings. We do not yet know when this day may come, but we do know that come it must.

To keep men from forgetting this day is now an even sublimer task than the healing of the wounds caused in battle; and to prepare for this day is the most sacred duty incumbent on mankind in this period of fever and delirium.

Men of learning and ability, you who are the intellectual leaders of mankind, you who are called upon to bear aloft the banner of civilization, and, as your fathers did, to keep it unsullied even in the darkest hour, yours is this duty—a sacred duty of measureless importance, a duty, indeed, which for gravity can scarcely be imposed upon you oftener than once in centuries. Recog-